

## Questions and Answers

March 2003

## ***Resource Conservation and Development Program***

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**Q. Are there any significant changes to the Resource Conservation and Development Program (RC&D) Statute?**

**A. There are several significant changes:**

- Permanent authorization of the RC&D program;
- More accurate description of the program as it currently operates;
- Additions of the role and definition of an RC&D council;
- Acknowledgment of participation by Tribes in the program; and
- A requirement that a program evaluation and report to the House and Senate committees of jurisdiction be made by June 30, 2005.

**Q. Will the new Farm Bill affect how NRCS manages the RC&D program?**

- A. The Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Farm Bill) language more closely resembles how the program is currently working. The language changes will enable NRCS to more effectively manage the program and strengthen its assistance to RC&D councils.**

**Q. Have there been any changes in the number of designated RC&D areas allowed by law?**

- A. No. The number of allowable designated areas remains 450.**

***For More Information***

If you need more information about RC&D, please contact your local USDA Service Center, listed in the telephone book under U.S. Department of Agriculture, or your local conservation district. Information also is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/farmbill/2002/>



Visit USDA on the Web at:  
<http://www.usda.gov/farmbill>

**Note:** This is not intended to be a definitive interpretation of farm legislation. Rather, it is preliminary and may change as USDA develops implementing policies and procedures. Please check back for updates.